

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued the following statement after the Trinity Resource Conservation District and the Redding Bureau of Land Management office received the national "Partners in Conservation Award" from the Secretary of the Interior.** Representatives of the Trinity RCD and the BLM traveled to Washington DC last week to accept the award in a ceremony at the Department of the Interior's headquarters. The Weaverville Community Forest was one of only four collaborative efforts on BLM land throughout the country to be given the award. Herger's comments follow below:

"I am extremely proud of the successful collaborative effort of the local community and the federal government to manage the Weaverville Community Forest in a way that benefits the community along with and the health of the forest. They have worked extremely hard on this endeavor and I am thrilled to see their efforts rewarded. I had the privilege to tour the Weaverville Community Forest last year, and it is clearly a model of environmental stewardship, forest health, and economic benefit."

Background:

The Weaverville Community Forest was started as a stewardship project on 1,000 acres of BLM land in 2005. The forest's first major thinning project yielded a million board feet of timber to the mill in Weaverville and brought in approximately \$100,000 in revenue that the RCD will be able to utilize locally for further thinning and resource enhancement projects. In addition, the forest's success led the RCD to vote last December to expand the forest with 12,000 acres of land managed by the U.S. Forest Service.